



January 12th, 2008

I want to start off this newsletter by wishing everyone a successful 2008. At Home Waters we are coming off our best year ever and we are incredibly excited about some of the new things we will be offering this upcoming season. Many of you have already booked your fishing trip for 2008 and I will be sending out more of these newsletters to let you know what we have planned.



A healthy cutt from a new stream near Fernie

Last year was a real turning point for us. We moved around southeastern British Columbia more than ever and found some unknown new tributaries near Fernie, some that even the guides had never fished. The great part about Fernie is that it is such a new fishery that there are still many unexplored waters. At the end of August last year I had a couple days off



What we are all about, great scenery and fishing



and took a drive up the Elk River with two of my guides, Spencer and Joel. We took a short hike up a fast flowing creek and although the water sure didn't look very good from the truck, once we were moving upstream this little gem turned into

one of the best creeks I have even seen. A glacier melts into the water year round leaving the waters temps in the creek very cool. At about 2 in the afternoon a huge hatch of ants and drakes carpeted the water and every pool was filled with large and healthy trout. I personally landed my biggest cutt of the year and I'm sure he had never seen a fly before. All of these trout looked pure and untouched! As you can see in the photo, these fish are fat and healthy. It's really amazing that there are still waters so close to Fernie that we are still exploring.

Alberta was also rewarding this year as we gained access to possibly the best trophy rainbow trout stream I have ever seen. I believe we are the only guide service offering this water and I can't even mention the name of the water for very selfish reasons. We are simply referring to it as River X, although the guides are calling it "heaven". My first day here I was with Spencer and the smallest fish and the first fish I caught was about 17 inches. The day



An average sized rainbow from River X

was filled with many between 20 and 25. We also saw and missed several that were close to 30 inches long. Yes, 10-pound rainbows on hoppers are possible. This small stream is so easy to walk and wade. The banks are flat and the water is fun to fish and easy to read. We have private access to this water



and the farmer we did business with is a great guy, very laid back and not interested in fishing. He would occasionally pull up in his truck just to see what we were up to and share a laugh. Near the end of August, Johnny and Spencer guided 4 guys on this water. One of the clients, a good angler named Curt had a banner day landing about 10 trout, losing 10 more and a couple were between 8 and 10

pounds. Some on streamers and some on hoppers. These huge rainbows are naturally programmed to look for hoppers blowing onto the water from the farmer's fields.

The reason these fish get so big is that they are eating 5-7 inch long minnows. At this point I have no idea how minnows got in this stream but it is paying off huge for us. We will be combing this water with the Waterton River, known for big browns and the Oldman River, both below and above the dam. If you have not yet had a late night on the Oldman with us then you are missing out on some really fun caddis fishing. Many nights I have stood in ankle deep water casting a caddis and watching hundreds of trout rise all over. Jonny guided a young man there last

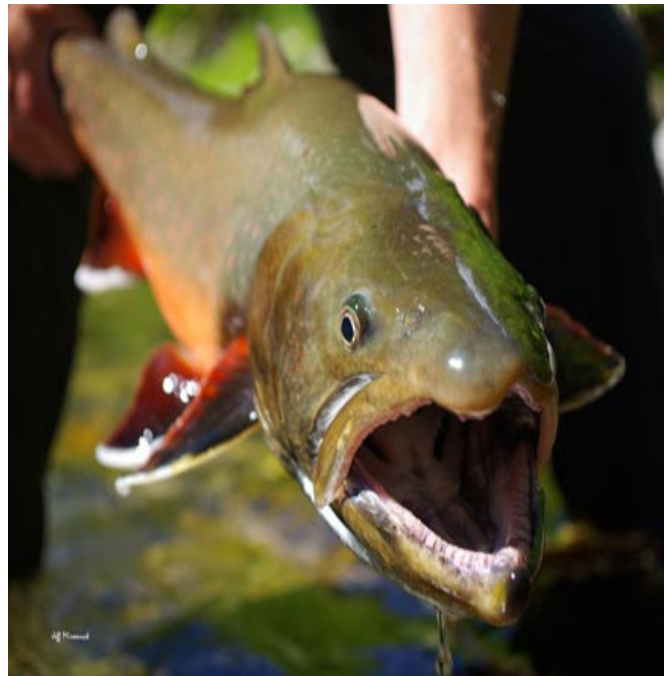


A nice bow taken on a hopper.

year as part of a large group. Parker Stoker was on top of his game and a bunch of us really enjoyed watching this up and coming angler land one big rainbow after another until the sun had completely faded. We will be placing guests and guides in an upscale B&B closer to the fishing for those that don't want to make the drive back to Fernie at the end of the day. As many of you know, we really enjoy fishing till dark in Alberta when the fishing calls for it. I believe that over the next few years the waters in Alberta will play a larger role for all of our clients. It's simply just that good.



Spencer with a foam eating rainbow.



Bull trout numbers were great in 2007.



Parker and his Dad, Dacre.

2008 will also see a return of all our guides as well as a couple new ones. Dean King has been working on the Bow River for years and will be coming down to Fernie for the summer. Dean has a great reputation in Alberta and is one of the most requested guides on the Oldman and the Bow. I'm pleased he will be with us again this year. We are keeping our flyshop in the Stanford Inn once again. They have their restaurant up and running serving great dinners and hot breakfasts. Plus the bar will be open all summer. Island Lake will also be taking care of many of our clients, if you stay there once, you will be back to be pampered. Only a 15-minute drive through an old growth cedar forest to our shop on the Elk River.

Feel free to give me a call with questions or send me an email. We will be sending out a new DVD shortly to everyone on our mailing list. If you have not received mail from me in the past please email me your address so I can send one out to you. Our DVD was very popular last year.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in 2008.

Jeff Mironuck
1-406-672-7386
888-737-9359
jeff@flyfishtheelk.com